

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 6, 2010, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-7 and 9-20 are rejected. Claim 1 is amended, and new Claim 21 is added. Claim 8 is withdrawn from further consideration in this application. Thus, Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. Support for the amendments may be found in the specification as originally filed. Claim 21 finds clear support at least in the material from line 28 on page 4 to line 3 on page 5 and lines 15 – 18 on page 6 of the original specification. Applicants submit that no new matter is added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-7 and 9-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Celinska et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,495,709, hereinafter “Celinska”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 specifically claims a method for forming a transparent conductive film, comprising the steps of applying, onto a base material, a dispersion containing fine particles of at least one metal selected from the group consisting of indium, tin, antimony, and zinc, fine particles of at least one alloy consisting of at least two metals selected from the metals specified above and aluminum or a mixture of these fine particles; firing a coated layer in an atmosphere which never undergoes any oxidation of

the foregoing metal and/or alloy; and subsequently firing the layer in an oxidizing atmosphere to thus form a transparent conductive film.

While Celinska does appear to disclose a process somewhat similar to that being claimed, there are certain specific, clear exceptions.

Firstly, Celinska does not produce a conductive film. The film is used as a dielectric insulation layer, a diffusion barrier, buffer layer, protective “cap” layer, or the like. Column 1 lines 42 – 65. None of these are conductive.

Secondly, throughout the entire disclosure, Celinska uses aluminum oxide or a metal alkoxide. There is no teaching or suggestion of using elemental metal or any alloy of aluminum. Further there is no teaching or suggestion of the specific metals claimed. There is no basis in the reference for the Examiner’s statement that fine particles of aluminum itself are adhered (OA, page 2, paragraph 4(a)) or that the metal particles comprise aluminum adhered to, for example, methoxide groups (OA, page 3, paragraph 10.). Column 7, lines 35 – 37 merely state “(m)etal alkoxides may be selected from a group including methoxides, ethoxides, isopropoxides, n-butoxides and pentoxides.” The remaining lines of the paragraph are equally void of any teaching of particles of a metal or alloy as claimed.

Consequently, it is strongly contended that clear differences exist between the present invention as claimed in Claim 1 and the prior art relied upon. It is further contended that these differences are more than sufficient that the present invention as claimed would not have been rendered obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art viewing that reference.

Claims 2 – 21 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1 and are therefore also distinguished for the same reasons as well as for the additional limitations they contain.

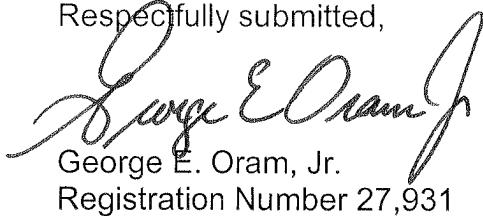
For at least the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-7 and 9-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Celinska.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below to schedule a personal or telephone interview to discuss any remaining issues.

In the event that this paper is not being timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account Number 01-2300, referencing Docket Number 029929-00032.

Respectfully submitted,



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